

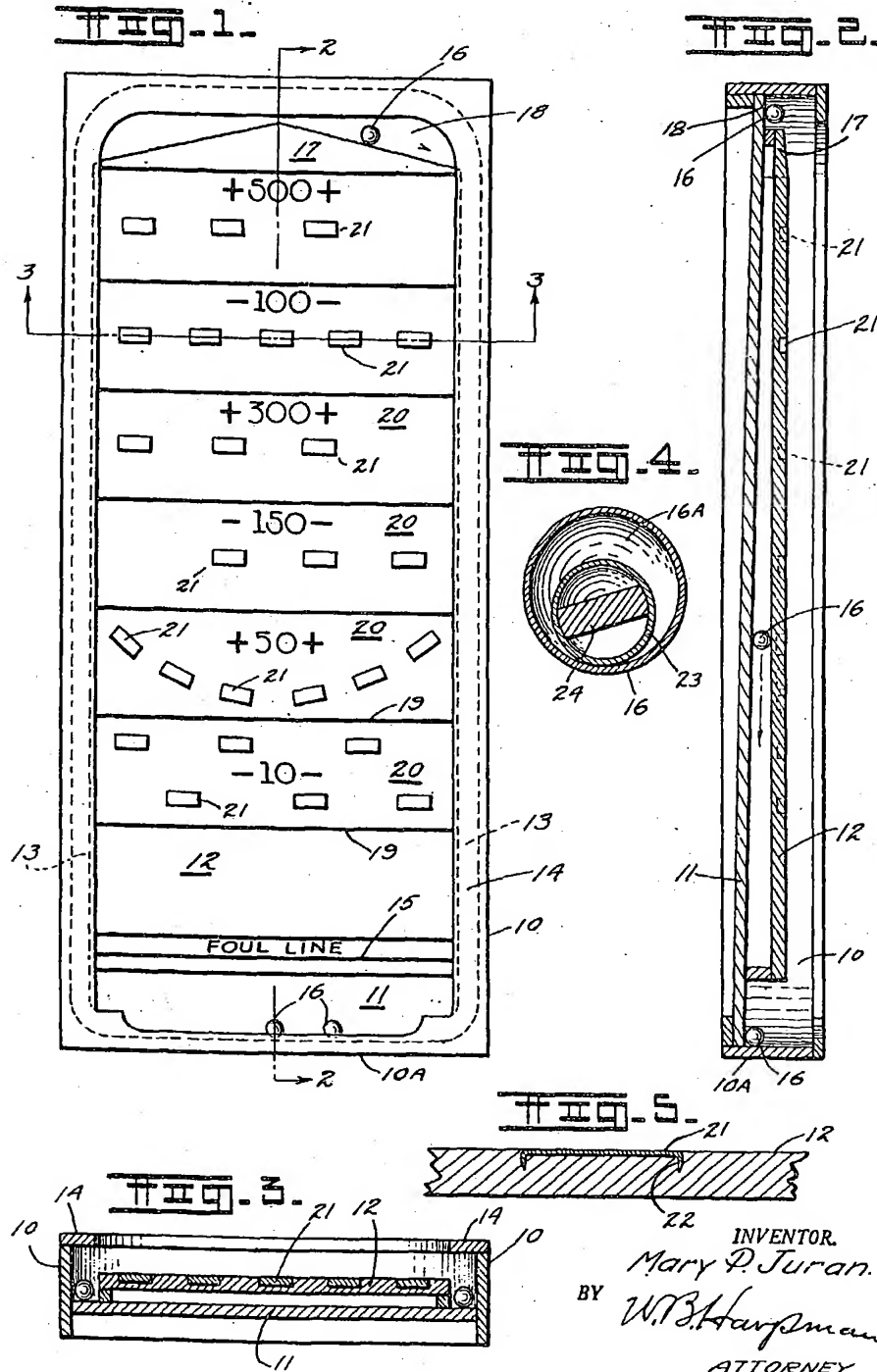
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MAGNETIC GAME BOARD WITH MAGNETIZED SPHERICAL GAME PIECES

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## MAGNETIC GAME BOARD WITH MAGNETIZED SPHERICAL GAME PIECES

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2 Claims. (Cl. 273-118)

1

This invention relates to a game board and more particularly to a game board incorporating a plurality of magnetized spherical game pieces.

The principal object of the invention is the provision of a game board having a plurality of score zones each of which has magnetizable metallic pieces for attracting and/or repelling magnetizable spherical game pieces.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a game board having a playing surface incorporating magnetizable score objectives and a plurality of hollow spheres comprising playing pieces, each of the hollow spheres having a secondary sphere loosely positioned therein and the second sphere including magnetizable material.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of an inexpensively formed, attractive game board which may be rapidly assembled from readily obtainable materials and which is particularly suited for use as a table top game.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a game board wherein a playing surface is provided incorporating magnetic elements including north and south poles together with a plurality of spherical game pieces incorporating magnetic elements having north and south poles and whereby the game pieces are attracted to or repelled from the magnetic elements in the game board as the same are rolled thereacross.

The game board disclosed herein comprises a novel table top game particularly suited for home use in that it resembles somewhat the game of shuffleboard and at the same time incorporates novel scoring areas and novel game pieces for achieving scoring results thereon.

The game board disclosed herein, and particularly the magnetizable metallic pieces in the playing surface thereof and the spherical game pieces each of which incorporates a magnetizable or magnetic element, makes possible an unusually exciting and interesting game as the playing pieces are rolled across the playing surface of the game board as the spherical game pieces will follow an erratic path depending upon their position with respect to the magnetizable or magnetic elements in the playing surface of the game board and the positioning of the magnetizable or magnetic elements in the spherical game pieces themselves.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being the intention to cover all changes and modifications of the example of the invention

2

herein chosen for purposes of the disclosure, which do not constitute departures from the spirit and scope of the invention.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the game board.

Figure 2 is a vertical section on line 2-2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a vertical section on line 3-3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a cross section of one of a plurality of spherical game pieces employed with the game board shown in Figure 1.

Figure 5 is an enlarged detailed view of a portion of the game board shown in Figure 1 and showing a modified magnetizable element positioned on the playing surface thereof.

By referring to the drawings and Figure 1 in particular it will be seen that the game board comprises a rectangular frame 10 including a bottom member 11 and a playing surface 12 which may be flat or inclined either toward the front or the back of the game board. The front of the game board comprises the lowermost end, as shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, and the back comprises the uppermost end and it will be observed that the playing surface 12 is in the form of an elevated platform with respect to the bottom 11 and that it is narrower than the bottom 11 so that ball return passageways 13-13 are defined one on each side of the playing surface 12.

These ball return passageways 13-13 may be, and preferably are, partially covered by an inverted flange 14 which extends around the edge of the game board and is attached to the rectangular frame 10. The front end of the playing board is so arranged that the bottom 11 is exposed between the front edge 15 of the playing surface 12 and the end wall 16A of the rectangular frame 10.

The ball return passageways 13-13 communicate with this end portion and in Figure 1 of the drawings two of the spherical game pieces are illustrated in this area and indicated by the numeral 16. The opposite or back end of the game board, which is the uppermost portion of the view in Figure 1, has an end panel 17 which is tilted with respect to the playing surface 12 so that it inclines sidewardly and rearwardly toward the ball receiving channels 13-13. The passageways 13-13 extend across the back end of the game board and into a ball receiving area 18 and one of the spherical game pieces 16 is shown in position therein in Figure 1 of the drawings.

Still referring to Figure 1 of the drawings it will be observed that the playing surface 12 is

3

divided into a plurality of score zones. These score zones are preferably, but not necessarily, separated by transverse lines 19 and they include indicia as to the score obtained when one of the spherical game pieces 16 is caused to rest therein. The indicia as illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawings comprise the numerals 10, 50, 100, 150, 300 and 500, some of which are associated with plus symbols and some of which are associated with minus symbols. The scoring indicia illustrated and just described is optional and may obviously be altered if desired. Each of the score zones defined by the transverse lines 19 are generally indicated by the numerals 20 and each includes a plurality of magnetizable or magnetic pieces 21 positioned flush with the playing surface 12 as best shown in Figures 3 and 5 of the drawings.

Each of these magnetic or magnetizable pieces 21 may comprise a bar magnet, as disclosed in Figure 3 of the drawings, with the north and south poles at its opposite ends or they may comprise a simple metallic piece as shown in Figure 5 of the drawings wherein the ends have integrally formed barbs 22 enabling the piece to be secured to the material of the playing surface 12. Alternately, the pieces 21 may comprise sprayed spots of resin incorporating magnetizable powder and applied to the playing surface 12 through a stencil or similar device to define a desirable area of the magnetic material. For example, a resin binder loaded with iron filings or iron ore, or other similar magnetizable metal, may be sprayed in a desired pattern on the playing surface 12. The spherical game pieces 16, heretofore referred to, are identical in size and construction in the preferred embodiment of the game and one of the game pieces 16 is illustrated in cross sectional enlarged detail in Figure 4 of the drawings.

By referring thereto it will be observed that the sphere 16 is formed of a non-magnetic material, such as a synthetic resin, capable of being moulded, for example in two halves which are later cemented together to form a completed sphere, the halves being illustrated in Figure 4 of the drawings as 16 and 16A and the sphere thus formed enclosing in its hollow interior a secondary sphere 23, which like the sphere 16, may be formed of non-magnetizable material such as a synthetic resin and so as to enclose a magnet 24. Alternately, the sphere 23 may be formed entirely of magnetic material.

In either event, the sphere is loosely positioned in the spheres 16 which are always formed of non-magnetic material. A number of the spheres 16 are used in playing the game and, for example, five spheres of a red color may be used by one player and five spheres of a green color may be used by another player, etc. When two players are playing the game, the spheres may be thrown alternately or each group of five by each player and the spheres which are attracted to and retained by the pieces 21 in the various score zones 20 may be added and the score obtained by the player thus totaled. It will be understood that if some of the score indicia are preceded or prefixed by minus symbols then the total of the spheres in those zones are subtracted from the total of the spheres in the zones carrying the plus indicia.

It will thus be seen that the game board dis-

4

closed herein is particularly suited for play with the particular spheres disclosed herein which incorporates magnetic centers or centers of magnetic material. It will be observed that when a sphere is rolled across the several score zones 20 of the board, its course will be influenced by the motion imparted it by the player and also by the positioning of the secondary sphere 23 therein and also by the position of the pieces 21 in the score zones. For example, assuming that each of the pieces 21 in the score zones carrying the indicia minus 10 minus is formed of a piece of steel and not magnetized and the sphere incorporates a magnet having north and south poles in oppositely disposed relation, as hereinbefore disclosed, then the sphere will be attracted to each of the pieces 21 whereas if the pieces 21 are magnetized so that they incorporate north and south poles in oppositely disposed relation, then the sphere will be attracted to some and repelled by others depending upon the positioning of the magnet in the secondary sphere 23 of the spheres 16.

It will thus be seen that the course of the playing game pieces, the spheres 16, is quite erratic and quite novel as disclosed herein and that an amusing and entertaining game results. Those spheres which are not seated in one of the zones, either on or off one of the pieces 21 and which roll across the entire length of the game board, will be automatically returned to the playing end or forward end of the game board by the return passageways 13-13.

It will thus be seen that a game board meeting the several objects of the invention has been disclosed which, together with the spherical game pieces also disclosed herein, makes possible the provision of the game board set forth in the objects.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A game board and playing pieces therefor, the game board comprising a playing surface having scoring zones thereon and pieces of magnetic material in the scoring zones, the playing pieces comprising hollow spheres of non-magnetic material having smaller spheres of non-magnetic material therein, said smaller spheres having portions of magnetized material exposed on their surfaces.

2. A game board and playing pieces therefor, the game board comprising a playing surface having scoring zones thereon and pieces of magnetized material in the scoring zones, the playing pieces comprising hollow spheres of non-magnetic material having smaller spheres of non-magnetic material therein, said smaller spheres having portions of magnetic material exposed on their surfaces.

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